

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 22, 1999

Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Harvey Friedson for Gary Brown, Tempe,  
Chairman  
Chuck Eaton for Victor Mendez, ADOT  
\*William Bates, Avondale  
Patrice Kraus, Chandler  
Randy Harrel, Fountain Hills  
\*Tami Ryall, Gilbert  
Jim Book, Glendale  
Doug Sanders, Goodyear

\*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park  
Tom Buick, Maricopa County  
Jeff Martin, Mesa  
\*David Moody, Peoria  
Tom Callow, Phoenix  
Ken Driggs, RPTA  
Peggy Carpenter for Steve Hogan, Scottsdale  
Ellis Perl for Bill Parrish, Surprise

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

\*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Patrick  
McDermott, Chandler  
\*Street Committee: Gary Thomas, Gilbert

\*Pedestrian Working Group: Steve Hancock,  
Mesa for Mike Branham, Surprise  
\*Telecommunication Working Group: Debbie  
Kohn, Avondale

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Johnson, MAG  
Stephen Tate, MAG  
Paul Ward, MAG  
Eric Anderson, MAG

Chris Voigt, MAG  
Bryan Jungwirth, RPTA  
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT  
Don Dey, SAIC  
Fred Carpenter, Wickenburg

1. Call to Order

Harvey Friedson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 1999

The minutes were approved unanimously without changes.

3. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience wished to address the committee.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Terry Johnson briefed the Committee on the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program. Applications for grant funding are made directly to the federal agency administering this program and are due by July 15th. MAG needs to be notified if a MAG member agency applies for funding under the program.

He noted that ADOT had received a Red Letter notification concerning a parcel in the alignment of the section of the South Mountain to be completed after 2007 and that right-of-way protection for sections of freeway in the post-2007 program may need to be addressed.

His also indicated that ADOT would soon be starting work on design concept reports for Interstate 17 and Interstate 10, that the new ADOT/MAG coordinated programming process would require that regionally funded projects be submitted to MAG by the 3rd week in September and that revised programming guidelines and an updated Management System Report had been developed.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Jim Book requested information on several questions and comment concerning items on the consent agenda. He requested to know who was the MAG project manager for the Regional Off-Street System Plan and was informed that it was Dawn Coomer. He noted that the draft stamp on the MAG Transportation Management Systems Report included in agenda item 8 made the document difficult to read. He requested to know how many people provided input at the stakeholders meeting reported on in agenda 12 and was informed that there were 25 participants.

Tom Buick asked agenda item 10 be removed from the consent agenda. Tom Callow moved that the consent agenda be accepted with the removal of agenda item 10. Ken Driggs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

\*6 Red Letter Notifications

MAG has received a Red Letter Notification concerning development in the planned alignment of the grade-separated interchange on Grand Avenue at Thomas and 27th Avenue.

\*7 Regional Off-Street System Plan

In May 1999, the Regional Council approved the FY 2000 Unified Planning Work Program which included the development of a Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan. The concept for this Plan was initiated by the MAG Regional Bicycle Task Force (RBTF). The plan will include a system of pathways for non-motorized travel. These pathways would be located in desert green belts and linear parkways built on rights-of-way along canals, high-voltage transmission lines, gas line easements, and flood control channels. These types of rights-of-way and easements are found throughout Maricopa

County and intersect numerous arterial streets where the local daily destinations people travel to are typically located.

The RBTF has proposed that oversight for development of the plan be provided jointly by the Pedestrian Working Group and the Regional Bicycle Task Force. The request for proposals is being targeted for advertisement in July, 1999 and a key tasks in the draft scope of work are listed below:

- Task 1 - Refine Scope of Work
- Task 2 - Public and Agency Plan
- Task 3 - Identify Issues and Opportunities, Prioritize Issues
- Task 4 - Develop Plan Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives
- Task 5 - Corridor Identification
- Task 6 - Corridor Evaluation
- Task 7 - Design Guidelines
- Task 8 - Alternatives
- Task 9 - Implementation and Funding
- Task 10 - Draft Regional Off-Street System Plan

\*8 MAG Transportation Management Systems Report FY 2000 Update

With the revisions to the MAG programming process resulting from the Casa Grande resolves, the MAG Management Systems has been developed on an earlier schedule. The report provides information to facilitate programming for transportation projects in the region. Technical information is provided by the management systems on safety, bridge conditions, transit vehicle needs, intermodal projects, pavement conditions and congestion levels. Information is also provided on air quality conditions, Title IV factors and congestion management strategies. Federal statutes require that Title IV factors and alternatives to single occupancy vehicles must be considered in the programming of new projects. A draft executive summary for the MAG Transportation Management Systems Report FY 2000 Update was provided to the Task Force.

\*9 Final Phase Hearing Summary

As part of its FY 1999 Public Involvement Program, MAG held a joint open house/public hearing on June 1, 1999. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public and obtain final input on four documents: the FY 1999 MAG Long Range Transportation Plan, the FY 2000-2204 Transportation Improvement Program, the 1999 Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and the Supplemental Emissions Reductions Test for the Approved 1998 Conformity Analysis. A transcript of the hearing was created, and responses to citizens comments are include in the FY 1999 Final Phase Input Opportunity Report. The executive summary of the report was provided to the Task Force and the entire report is available upon request.

10. Special Transportation Needs Study

Carol Kratz gave a presentation on the Special Transportation Needs Study. Recent federal and state changes in welfare policy have increased the need to address employment accessibility problems of disadvantaged populations. To address this matter MAG has completed a Special Transportation Needs Study which identifies sixteen options for addressing the problem.

Tom Buick suggested that the Study needs to include an action plan to implement the options. Carol noted that a number of the options were already being implemented and Harvey Friedson indicated that funding for one of the options would be addressed under agenda item 14.

Jim Book moved that the Task Force recommend to the Management Committee that the Study be forwarded to the Regional Council for approval. Ken Driggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

\*11. Process to Develop the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

A new process has been developed to integrate the MAG, ADOT and RPTA annual programming process. Figure F illustrates this general concept. The Long Range Transportation Plan provides the overall concept. The MAG Management Systems Report and guidelines approved by the Regional Council provide general direction for identifying and selecting projects for programming. The public stakeholders and elected officials are involved throughout the process.

A schedule for the FY 2001-2005 program cycle is included as Attachment G. Projects requests for regional funding need to be submitted to MAG by September 24, 1999. Locally funded projects need to be submitted to MAG by January 21, 2000 for inclusion in the draft TIP for air quality conformity analysis. The draft TIP is scheduled for approval for conformity analysis in March and final approval is targeted for June.

\*12. Summary of Stakeholder Comments

As part of its FY 2000 Public Involvement Program, MAG sponsored a Regional Transportation Stakeholders Meeting to obtain initial input on updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. Representatives from MAG, the Arizona Department of Transportation, Valley Metro, and several community groups attended and provided input on important needs and issues to consider in updating the adopted Policy Guidelines for Programming Regional Transportation Funds. A summary of comments was provided to the Task Force.

13. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Eric Anderson provided a brief report. The funding plan to accelerate the freeway program is nearing completion. Final cleanup of minor issues is underway and monthly cash flows are being developed. Cash flows for this program are extremely tight. Close monitoring of cost increases, particularly those associated with right-of-way need to be closely monitored.

In July, it is anticipated that a resolution by the Regional Council assuring the continued commitment of MAG federal funding for the freeway program will be needed in order to allow ADOT to issue a

Grant Anticipation Note (GAN). ADOT is actively pursuing GANs as means of moving funding forward.

ADOT is compiling a list of potential cost increases. These increases cover costs associated with the Freeway Management System, the restoration of lanes and the addition of sound walls. ADOT has also recently held a meeting of its Resource Advisory Committee to review current cost and funding estimates.

Chuck Eaton handed out copies of the final program for the Regional Freeway System to members of the Task Force who wanted them.

Tom Buick alerted the Task Force to a potential reduction in HURF funding due to changes in truck taxes. Eric Anderson indicated that he would check on the matter.

Tom Callow thanked ADOT for opening State Route 51 to Bell Road.

14. Maricopa County Work Links Program Update

Carol Kratz gave a brief report. There is a significant spatial mismatch between the location of low income populations and the location of major labor sheds. The Maricopa County Work Links Program attempts to address the mismatch problem by working with employers and transit operators to improve the transportation access of low income workers. The Task Force has already recommended the allocation of \$750, 000 per year for FY 1999, FY 2000 and FY 2001 to fund the program contingent on the availability of funding. Recently Maricopa County has received a federal grant for \$800,000 to fund the program and in a letter the County is requesting that MAG continue its funding commitment as the amount of the grant is not sufficient to fully address the needs of the program.

Ken Driggs indicated that the RPTA was strongly in support of the program.

Patrice Kraus expressed concern that the program did not have a long term funding commitment and that a long term commitment of MAG federal funding may be needed.

Doug Sanders asked if residents of the southwest Valley would be served by the program. Terry Johnson indicated that they would be served.

Harvey Friedson indicated that action regarding funding for the program would be covered under agenda item 15.

15. Closeout Status of the FY 1999 MAG Federally Funded Program

Paul Ward briefly went over a table of outstanding projects for FY 1999. He noted that at this time it appears that approximately \$470,000 in FY 1999 obligation authority will be available for reprogramming, but this amount could vary depending on the redistribution of obligation authority and other factors.

Jeff Martin moved that up to \$750,000 in unused FY 1999 obligation authority be allocated to the County Work Links Program and any remaining FY 1999 obligation authority be used to accelerate bus purchases. The motion carried unanimously.

16. District Engineer's Report

Chuck Eaton gave a brief report for the District Engineer. He noted that the District Engineer had suggested a number of projects for scoping and showed a map.

17. Potential Update to Policy Guidelines for Programming Regional Transportation Funds

Terry Johnson gave a brief presentation. Policy guidelines were adopted last December. Consequently, only minor changes to the guidelines are suggested this year. These guidelines stem from stakeholder input and include only minor adjustments to the goals on regionalism, multimodalism, air quality and congestion and human services.

Tom Callow and Jim Book questioned references in the proposed guidelines to golf carts. Questions were raised whether the changes were compatible with State laws and air quality objectives and whether they entered into questions concerning go-peds.

Patrice Kraus, Jeff Martin and Tami Ryall questioned the value of the guidelines noting that they were overly broad. Jeff Martin suggested forming a subcommittee to address the guidelines.

Terry Johnson indicated that the Regional Council needed to make a decision in July. He suggested that the Task Force could leave the guidelines on changed for now and address the guidelines for next year later.

Ken Driggs moved to recommend to the Management Committee that the currently adopted guidelines be forwarded to the Regional Council for approval and that the TRC form a subcommittee to consider changes to the guidelines. Tom Callow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

18. Potential Input Process for Park and Ride Site Selection

Chris Voigt gave a brief report. The process is part of Study to identify potential park-and-ride locations in the Valley. The Study will identify 10 new park-and-ride locations and 10 long term park-and-ride lot locations. It is anticipated that park-and-ride lots will cost in the range of \$3.6 million each. Chris reviewed park-and-lot studies from New Jersey and San Diego and indicated that costs for these studies were in line with costs for the MAG study.

Discussion of the subject indicated that the environmental work in the Study will rollover into development work for the planned lots to be conducted by the RPTA and that although formal benefit cost analysis will be conducted, cost and usage analysis will be used to select potential locations. An oversight process was discussed that include representatives of RPTA, Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert and Maricopa County.

Jeff Martin moved approval of the process. Ken Driggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

19. Corridor Update

Chris Voigt gave a brief report. Environmental studies are being conducted on the Red Mountain, Santan, Superstition and Squaw Peak corridors. Other studies are underway on Grand Avenue, Interstate 17, Interstate 10, State Route 85, and design work is active in several areas.

20. Next Meeting Dates

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room.